

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-46 (Canceled)

47. (Previously presented) A method of producing a population of at least ten cells, wherein at least 30% of the cells are multipotent stem cells substantially purified from skin or tongue tissue of a postnatal mammal or progeny of said multipotent stem cells, wherein said multipotent stem cells are self-renewing, form non-adherent clusters, express nestin, and can differentiate into neuronal and mesodermal cell types, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing skin or tongue tissue from said mammal;
- (b) culturing said skin or tongue tissue under conditions in which multipotent stem cells proliferate and in which at least 25% of the cells that are not multipotent stem cells die or attach to the culture substrate; and
- (c) continuing culture step (b) until at least 30% of the cells are multipotent stem cells which are self renewing, form non-adherent clusters, express nestin and can differentiate into neuronal and mesodermal cell types, or progeny of said multipotent stem cells.

48. (Previously presented) A method of producing a population of at least ten cells, wherein at least 30% of the cells are multipotent stem cells substantially purified from skin or tongue tissue of a postnatal mammal or progeny of said multipotent stem cells, wherein said multipotent stem cells are self-renewing, form non-adherent clusters, express nestin, and can differentiate into neuronal and mesodermal cell types, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing skin or tongue tissue from said mammal;
- (b) culturing said skin or tongue tissue under conditions in which multipotent stem cells proliferate and in which at least 25% of the cells that are not multipotent

stem cells die or attach to the culture substrate;

(c) separating said multipotent stem cells from said cells that attach to said culture substrate; and

(d) repeating steps (b) and (c) until at least 30% of the cells are multipotent stem cells which are self renewing, form non-adherent clusters, express nestin, and can differentiate into neuronal and mesodermal cell types, or progeny of said multipotent stem cells.

49. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein said tissue is skin tissue.

50. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein said mammal is a human.

51. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein said tissue is skin tissue.

52. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein said tissue is skin tissue.

53. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein said mammal is a human.

54. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein said tissue is skin tissue.